overall specificity level for the entire panel is calculated by multiplying the specificity of each marker in the panel (e.g., 97% x 97% x 97% x 97% = 89% specificity for the panel). The markers were arranged on the graphs shown in Figure 3, according to the frequency of their overexpression in the cancer samples (TIMP1 was overexpressed in the highest number of cancer patients and is therefore listed first). The marker adding the most to the sensitivity of TIMP1 is ranked second. For example, the 57% sensitivity/100% specificity graph shows that TIMP1 was elevated in 19 of the 63 colorectal cancer patient plasma samples, and is thus listed first on the graph. Evaluating the samples for osteopontin yielded seven additional positive patient samples, and osteopontin is thus listed second on the graph.

The sensitivity of the panel was determined by dividing the cumulative number of samples that were positive for at least one marker by the total number of cancer samples (63).

OTHER EMBODIMENTS

Other embodiments will be evident to those of skill in the art. It should be understood that the foregoing detailed description is provided for clarity only and is merely exemplary. The spirit and scope of the present invention are not limited to the above examples, but are encompassed by the following claims.